



Patent Application  
Attorney Docket No: AMS-163

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: Watschke, et al.

Group Art Unit: Unknown

Serial No.: 10/646,082

Filed: August 22, 2003

Examiner: Unknown

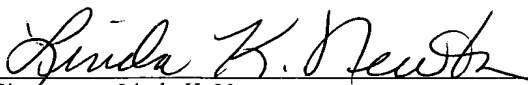
For: Surgical Article

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

November 13, 2003

Date

  
Signature - Linda K. Newton

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97 and 1.98, enclosed for consideration by the Examiner during examination of the above identified application are copies of the following documents listed on the attached form PTO-1449.

Applicants assert that nothing herein is intended to be construed as an admission as to whether a document constitutes prior art against the present application. Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.131, 1.132 or otherwise, to establish that the document(s) are not "prior art". Applicants have provided these documents to comply with their duty under 37 C.F.R. 1.56.

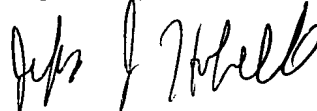
Copies of the following patent applications are enclosed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. Section 1.98 (a)(2) (iii) and MPEP 609 (D). Applicants respectfully request consideration of the following document in this application:

1. U.S. Patent Application No. 09/968,239, filed March October 1, 2001 (Attorney Docket No. AMS-012).
2. U.S. Patent Application No. 10/645,588, filed March August 22, 2003 (Attorney Docket No. 240993US25).

This information disclosure statement is being filed prior to a first action on the merits. Thus, no fee is believed due for this submission. If this is in error, please charge the fee for the submission of this Information Disclosure Statement to Deposit Account No. 501921.

In view of the foregoing, consideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

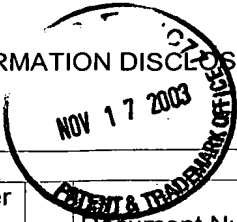


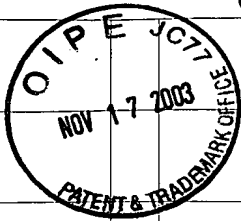
Jeffrey J. Hohenshell

Registration Number 34,109

Date: November 13, 2003

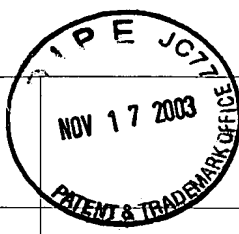
Enclosures

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b> 			Atty. Docket No.: AMS-163		Serial No.: 10/646,082	
			Applicant(s): Watschke et al.			
			Filing Date:		Group: Unknown	
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>						
Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	SubClass	Filing Date if Appropriate
	4,938,760	07/03/90	Burton et al.			
	4,969,892	11/13/90	Burton et al.			
	5,013,292	05/07/91	Lemay			
	5,112,344	05/12/92	Petros			
	5,474,518	12/12/95	Velazquez			
	5,562,689	10/08/96	Green et al.			
	5,591,163	01/07/97	Thompson			
	5,611,515	03/18/97	Benderev et al.			
	5,836,315	11/17/98	Benderev et al.			
	5,842,478	12/01/98	Benderev et al.			
	5,860,425	01/19/99	Benderev et al.			
	5,899,909	05/04/99	Claren et al.			
	6,039,686	03/21/00	Kovac			
	6,042,534	03/28/00	Gellman et al.			
	6,050,937	04/18/00	Benderev			
	6,068,591	05/30/00	Bruckner et al.			
	6,071,290	06/06/00	Compton			
	6,106,545	08/22/00	Egan			
	6,110,101	08/29/00	Tihon et al.			
	6,117,067	09/12/00	Gil-Vernet			
	6,302,840	10/16/01	Benderev			
	6,328,686	12/11/01	Kovac			
	6,334,446	01/01/02	Beyar			
	2002/0115906 A1	08/22/02	Miller			
	2002/0151909 A1	10/17/02	Gellman et al.			
	2002/0151910 A1	10/17/02	Gellman et al.			
	2002/0156487 A1	10/24/02	Gellman et al.			
	2002/0156488 A1	10/24/02	Gellman et al.			
	2002/0156489 A1	10/24/02	Gellman et al.			
	2003/0130670 A1	07/10/03	Anderson et al.			
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>						
	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	SubClass	Translation Yes                      No
	0643945 A2 ✓	07/06/94	EP			
	0650703 A1 ✓	06/24/94	EP			
	93/19678 A2 ✓	10/14/93	WO/PCT			
	99/52450 A1 ✓	10/21/99	WO/PCT			
	00/13601 A1 ✓	03/16/00	WO/PCT			
	01/39670 A1 ✓	06/07/01	WO/PCT			
	01/56499 A1 ✓	08/09/01	WO/PCT			
	03/047435 A1 ✓	06/12/03	WO/PCT			
<b>EXAMINER</b>				<b>Date Considered</b>		
<p>*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citations in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p> <p>Based on Form PTO-FB-A820 (also form PTO-1449)</p> <p>Patent and Trademark Office. U.S. Department of Commerce</p>						

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION		Atty. Docket No.: AMS-163	Serial No.: 10/646,082
		Applicant(s): Watschke et al.	
		Filing Date:	Group: Unknown
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Authors, Title, Date, Pertinent Papers, etc.)			
		Araki et al., THE LOOP-LOOSENING PROCEDURE FOR URINATION DIFFICULTIES AFTER STAMEY SUSPENSION OF THE VESICAL NECK, The Journal of Urology, Vol. 144, pg 319-323 (August 1990)	
		Blavis et al., TYPE III STRESS URINARY INCONTINENCE: IMPORTANCE OF PROPER DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT, Surgical Forum Gynecology and Obstetrics, page 473-475, (admitted prior art)	
		Blavis, Jerry, COMMENTARY: PUBOVAGINAL SLING PROCEDURE, Experience with Pubovaginal Slings, pages 93-101, (admitted prior art)	
		Decter, R., USE OF THE FASCIAL SLING FOR NEUROGENIC INCONTINENCE: LESSONS LEARNED, The Journal of Urology, Vol. 150, pg 683-686 (August 1993)	
		Jeffcoate, T.N.A, THE RESULTS OF THE ALDRIDGE SLING OPERATION FOR STRESS INCONTINENCE, Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, page 36-39, 1956	
		Kersey, J., THE GAUZE HAMMOCK SLING OPERATION IN THE TREATMENT OF STRESS INCONTINENCE, British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Vol. 90, pg 945-949 (October 1983)	
		McGuire, Edward J. et al., EXPERIENCE WITH PUBOVAGINAL SLINGS FOR URINARY INCONTINENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, Journal of Urology, Vol. 138, pages 90-93, (1987)	
		McIndoe G.A.J. et al., THE ALDRIDGE SLING PROCEDURE IN THE TREATMENT OF URINARY STRESS INCONTINENCE, Aust. NZ J Obstes Gynaecol, pg 238-239 (1987)	
		Moir, J. Chassar, THE GAUZE-HAMMOCK OPERATION, The Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of the British Commonwealth, pages 1-9, Vol. 75, No. 1, (January 1968).	
		Morgan, J.E., A SLING OPERATION, USING MARLEX POLYPROPYLENE MESH FOR TREATMENT OF RECURRENT STRESS INCONTINENCE, American Journal of Obst. & Gynec., Vol. 106 Number 3, pg 369-377, (February 15, 1970)	
		Narik.G et al., A SIMPLIFIED SLING OPERATION SUITABLE FOR ROUTINE USE, American Journal Obstetrics & Gynecology, pages 401-405, Vol. 84 No. 3, (August 1, 1962)	
		Rackley et al., TENSION-FREE VAGINAL TAPE AND PERCUTANEOUS VAGINAL TAPE SLING PROCEDURES, Techniques in Urology, Vol. 7, No. 2, pg 90-100 (2001)	
	Raz, Female Urology, McGuire, Edward J. et al., ABDOMINAL FASCIAL SLINGS, Slings, pg 369-375 (1996)		
	Ridley, John H., APPRAISAL OF THE GOEBELL-FRANGENHEIM-STOECKEL SLING PROCEDURE, American Journal Obst & Gynec., Volume 95 Number 5, pg 741-721 (July 1, 1986)		
EXAMINER		Date Considered	
<p>*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citations in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p> <p>Based on Form PTO-FB-A820 (also form PTO-1449)</p> <p>Patent and Trademark Office. U.S. Department of Commerce</p>			

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION		Atty. Docket No.: AMS-163	Serial No.: 10/646,082
		Applicant(s): Watschke et al.	
		Filing Date:	Group: Unknown

		Sloan, W.R. et al., STRESS INCONTINENCE OF URINE A RETROSPECTIVE STUDY OF THE COMPLICATIONS AND LATE RESULTS OF SIMPLE SUPRAPUBIC SUBURETHRAL FASCIAL SLINGS, Journal of Urology, pages 533-536, Vol. 110, (November 1973).
		Spencer et al., A COMPARISON OF ENDOSCOPIC SUSPENSION OF THE VESICAL NECK WITH SUPRAPUBIC VESICOURETHROPEXY FOR TREATMENT OF STRESS URINARY INCONTINENCE, The Journal of Urology, Vol. 137, pg 411-415 (March 1987)
		Stanton, Stuart L., SUPRAPUBIC APPROACHES FOR STRESS INCONTINENCE IN WOMEN, Journal of American Geriatrics Society, Vol. 38, No. 3, pg 348-351 (March 1990)
		Studdiford, William, TRANSPLANTATION OF ABDOMINAL FASCIA FOR THE RELIEF OF URINARY STRESS INCONTINENCE, American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, pages 764-775
		Vesica Sling Kits, A New Approach to Bladder Neck Suspension, Boston Scientific Microvasive, 4 pages (1995)
		Vesica Sling Kits, Simplifying Sling Procedures, Boston Scientific Microvasive, 4 pages (1998)
		Webster et al., VOIDING DYSFUNCTION FOLLOWING CYSTOURETHROPEXY: ITS EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT, The Journal of Urology, Vol. 144, pg 670-673 (September 1990)

EXAMINER	Date Considered
----------	-----------------

\*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citations in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.  
Based on Form PTO-FB-A820 (also form PTO-1449)  
Patent and Trademark Office. U.S. Department of Commerce